

*Will prevent huge cut to Iowa doctors and ensure fair payments in the future*

**Washington, DC** - Rep. Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) today supported legislation that will permanently fix the way Medicare pays physicians. The Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act (H.R. 3961) repeals a 21 percent cut in doctors' payments scheduled for January, and replaces it with a system that protects seniors and promotes primary care. The legislation passed the House today with a vote of 243-183.

"This fix ensures that our seniors have reliable access to their doctors and the primary care they need," Braley said. "Iowa doctors face a double-whammy next year due to the pending 21 percent cut and unfair geographic disparity in Medicare. I'm proud that I was able to restore geographic equity in the health care reform bill two weeks ago, and to support this bill today to prevent immediate Medicare cuts and to avoid future cuts."

The Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act prevents pay cuts that could prevent doctors from seeing Medicare patients. It builds on the Affordable Health Care for America Act passed earlier this month, which will lower premiums, close the "donut hole" drug coverage gap and improve overall care for seniors.

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